

## Message Text

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17

ACTION NRC-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 OES-05 DODE-00 FEA-01

ERDA-07 /084 W

----- 022661

R 091017Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4515

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS LONDON 13853

DEPARTMENT PASS NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION.

BRUSSELS PASS ERDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, FR, IT, JA, UK

SUBJ: NUCLEAR INSPECTION AUTHORITY AND ROLE

REF: STATE 188453

1. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LICENSING OF NUCLEAR  
REACTORS IN THE UK RESTS WITH THE NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS  
INSPECTORATE. THIS BODY, NII, HAS RECENTLY BEEN  
TRANSFERRED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT. THIS TRANSFER IS TO SOME  
EXTENT SIMILAR TO THE RECENT SEPARATION OF NRC FROM AEC  
UPON THE FORMATION OF ERDA. HOWEVER, THE UK SITUATION  
DIFFERS FROM THAT IN THE US, BECAUSE NII HAS BEEN MADE  
PART OF A LARGER BODY, THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION,  
WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT. HCS INCLUDES NOT  
ONLY NUCLEAR INSPECTION BUT ALSO INSPECTION OF MINES,  
QUARRIES, FACTORIES AND HAZARDOUS OPERATIONS OF ALL  
KINDS. HCS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING BOTH EMPLOYEES  
AND THE PUBLIC FROM HAZARDOUS INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS AND  
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TOXIC WASTES OR EMISSIONS FROM ALL TYPES OF PLANT. HCS

INCLUDES IN ITS ORGANIZATION NOT ONLY INSPECTION AND LICENSING FUNCTIONS BUT ALSO RESEARCH ON SAFETY AND TOXICITY.

2. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE DIVISION OF HCS DIVIDES ITS OPERATIONS INTO TWO DISTINCT PARTS.

1. EXISTING REACTOR PLANTS.

PLANTS IN OPERATION ARE INSPECTED REGULARLY BY A STAFF OF INSPECTORS BASED IN LONDON AND LIVERPOOL. AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, INDUSTRIAL INSPECTORS ARE NOT ASSIGNED TO MORE THAN TWO SEPARATE POWER STATIONS. INSPECTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT AT RANDOM DATES, WITHOUT WARNING, BUT MUST AVERAGE AT LEAST ONE PER MONTH.

IN ADDITION, PLANTS ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT ON A REGULAR BASIS CONCERNING A LIST OF UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES, ARE REQUIRED TO PERFORM EMERGENCY TEST EXERCISES FROM TIME TO TIME, UNDER INSPECTOR SUPERVISION, AND ARE REQUIRED TO EXCHANGE OPERATING DATA AND EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER STATIONS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

CURRENTLY, THE LIVERPOOL OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROCESSING PLANTS OF BRITISH NUCLEAR FUEL LTD., VARIOUS SMALL UNIVERSITY RESEARCH REACTORS AND THE BNFL REACTORS AT CALDER HALL AND CHAPEL CROSS. THE LONDON OFFICE HANDLES ALL THE MAIN POWER REACTORS IN THE UK OPERATED BY CEGB AND SSEB.

2. REACTORS PRIOR TO COMMISSIONING.

THERE IS A SEPARATE BRANCH RESPONSIBLE FOR INSPECTION OF REACTORS AT ALL STAGES FROM CONCEPTION OF FUTURE SYSTEMS THROUGH DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, CHOICE OF SITE AND CONSTRUCTION UP TO FUEL LOADING. THIS BRANCH OF NII IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUANCE OF THE SITE LICENSE. SUCH A LICENSE CALLS FOR INSPECTION AT VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION COMMENCING WITH EXCAVATION, THE POURING OF CONCRETE AND SO FORTH.

THE NUCLEAR INSPECTORS DO NOT THEMSELVES CARRY OUT TESTS ON ACTUAL HARDWARE. FOR THIS PURPOSE THEY RELY UPON THIRD PARTIES, SUCH AS INSURANCE AND UTILITY INSPECTORS. THEY CAN AND DO REQUIRE THESE INSPECTORS TO CARRY OUT SPECIFIC TESTS AS REQUIRED UNDER THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SITE LICENSE OR THE OPERATING LICENSE.

3. FULLER DETAILS OF NII PROCEDURES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ACRS GROUP ON SEPTEMBER 30.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Number:** 1975LONDON13853  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750311-0480  
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**To:** STATE  
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